

MEDIA RELEASE

Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

27 April 2009

COMMISSIONER WARNS OF DARWIN PYRAMID SELLING SEMINAR

Consumer Affairs A/Commissioner, Gary Clements, is warning Territorians about a seminar being held by Craig Wotton at the Mantra Pandanus in Darwin at 7pm on Tuesday 28 April 2009, encouraging consumers to join a lotto system scheme.

Mr Wotton is selling membership under a company name TSC2000 Europe Ltd, which may be an illegal pyramid selling scheme. Mr Wotton is currently under investigation by Consumer Affairs.

It is illegal in the NT to participate in an illegal pyramid selling scheme or to induce a person to participate. Individuals face fines of up to \$55,000 and corporations face fines of up to \$275,000 for breaches of the NT's *Consumer Affairs and Fair Trading Act*.

Mr Clements said, "I urge all consumers to be very cautious about schemes such as these as they may be illegal, and could end up costing you far more than you think. Anyone considering participation in any money making scheme such as this, should obtain independent legal and financial advice first. Don't sign anything on the night!"

"I am also concerned as TSC2000 Europe Ltd is not a registered Australian Company, and is therefore operating illegally in the NT. The Australian Securities and Investment Commission is also looking into the company", he said.

Anyone with enquiries about TSC2000 Europe Ltd or similar schemes should contact Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319.